

CLAIMS

- 1 1. A method for providing information regarding a piece
2 of electronic mail (e-mail), comprising:
3 processing a data set containing transmission data
4 associated with the e-mail so as to determine one or more
5 steps in a propagation history of the e-mail, the
6 transmission data including identifiers of a sender of
7 the e-mail and of one or more recipients of at least a
8 portion of the e-mail; and
9 displaying the propagation history.
- 1 2. A method according to claim 1, wherein processing the
2 data set comprises analyzing transmission information
3 embedded in text of the e-mail.
- 1 3. A method according to claim 1, wherein processing the
2 data set comprises analyzing transmission information not
3 contained in text of the e-mail.
- 1 4. A method according to claim 1, wherein displaying the
2 propagation history comprises designating a first visual
3 symbol to represent transmission of the e-mail to a
4 primary recipient, and designating a second visual symbol
5 different from the first visual symbol to represent
6 transmission of the e-mail to a secondary recipient.
- 1 5. A method according to claim 1, wherein displaying the
2 propagation history comprises designating a first visual
3 symbol to represent the sender and designating at least
4 one visual symbol different from the first visual symbol
5 to represent the one or more recipients.
- 1 6. A method according to claim 5, wherein displaying the
2 propagation history comprises designating a first color
3 for the first visual symbol and designating a second
4 color, different from the first color, for the at least
5 one visual symbol.

1 7. A method according to claim 1, wherein displaying the
2 propagation history comprises graphically displaying the
3 propagation history.

1 8. A method according to claim 7, wherein graphically
2 displaying the propagation history comprises graphically
3 displaying the steps in the history in an animation mode.

1 9. A method according to claim 7, wherein graphically
2 displaying the propagation history comprises:

3 displaying a representation of the sender and at
4 least one of the recipients; and

5 displaying a graphical representation of movement of
6 the e-mail from the sender to the at least one of the
7 recipients.

1 10. A method according to claim 9, wherein displaying the
2 graphical representation of movement comprises displaying
3 an arrow.

1 11. A method according to claim 1, wherein processing the
2 data set comprises determining two or more steps in the
3 propagation history of the e-mail, the transmission data
4 including for each step in the propagation history
5 identifiers of a sender and one or more recipients of a
6 respective portion of the piece of e-mail, wherein the
7 method comprises:

8 receiving from a user a designation of an electronic
9 mail correspondent;

10 finding at least one identifier in the transmission
11 data corresponding to the designated correspondent; and

12 displaying part of the piece of e-mail responsive to
13 finding the at least one identifier.

1 12. A method according to claim 11, wherein displaying
2 part of the piece of e-mail comprises displaying e-mail
3 content sent by the correspondent.

3 displaying a hierarchy including the members in the
4 set; and

5 displaying the propagation history with respect to
6 the hierarchy.

1 21. A method according to claim 20, wherein displaying
2 the propagation history with respect to the hierarchy
3 comprises superimposing a representation of the
4 propagation history on the hierarchy.

1 22. A method for providing information regarding a piece
2 of electronic mail (e-mail), comprising:

3 scanning the e-mail so as to identify a sender or
4 recipient of at least a portion of the e-mail;

5 displaying a hierarchy; and

6 indicating on the hierarchy a location of the sender
7 or recipient in the hierarchy.

1 23. Apparatus for providing information regarding a piece
2 of electronic mail (e-mail), comprising:

3 a processor, configured to process a data set
4 containing transmission data associated with the e-mail
5 so as to determine one or more steps in a propagation
6 history of the e-mail, the transmission data including
7 identifiers of a sender of the e-mail and of one or more
8 recipients of at least a portion of the e-mail; and

9 a display, configured to display the propagation
10 history.

1 24. Apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the
2 processor is configured to analyze transmission
3 information embedded in text of the e-mail.

1 25. Apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the
2 processor is configured to analyze transmission
3 information not contained in text of the e-mail.

1 26. Apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the
2 processor is configured to designate a first visual
3 symbol to represent transmission of the e-mail to a
4 primary recipient, and to designate a second visual
5 symbol different from the first visual symbol to
6 represent transmission of the e-mail to a secondary
7 recipient.

1 27. Apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the
2 processor is configured to designate a first visual
3 symbol to represent the sender, and to designate at least
4 one visual symbol different from the first visual symbol
5 to represent the one or more recipients.

1 28. Apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the
2 processor is configured to designate a first color for
3 the first visual symbol, and to designate a second color,
4 different from the first color, for the at least one
5 visual symbol.

1 29. Apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the
2 processor is configured to drive the display to
3 graphically display the propagation history.

1 30. Apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the
2 processor is configured to drive the display to
3 graphically display the steps in the history in an
4 animation mode.

1 31. Apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the
2 processor is configured to drive the display to display a
3 representation of the sender and at least one of the
4 recipients, and to display a graphical representation of
5 movement of the e-mail from the sender to the at least
6 one of the recipients.

1 32. Apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the
2 processor is configured to determine two or more steps in
3 the propagation history of the e-mail, the transmission
4 data including for each step in the propagation history
5 identifiers of a sender and one or more recipients of a
6 respective portion of the piece of e-mail, and wherein
7 the processor is configured to:

8 receive from a user a designation of an electronic
9 mail correspondent;

10 find at least one identifier in the transmission data
11 corresponding to the designated correspondent; and

12 drive the display to display part of the piece of e-
13 mail responsive to finding the at least one identifier.

1 33. Apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the
2 processor is configured to:

3 determine a location of the correspondent in a
4 hierarchy;

5 drive the display to display the hierarchy; and

6 drive the display to identify for the user the
7 location of the correspondent in the hierarchy.

1 34. Apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the
2 processor is configured to receive information regarding
3 a relationship relating members in a set, which set
4 includes at least some of: the sender and the one or more
5 recipients, and wherein the processor is configured to
6 drive the display to display the propagation history
7 responsive to the relationship.

1 35. Apparatus according to claim 34, wherein the
2 processor is configured to receive information regarding
3 a hierarchical relationship relating the members, and to
4 drive the display to display the propagation history
5 responsive to the hierarchical relationship.

1 36. Apparatus for providing information regarding a piece
2 of electronic mail (e-mail), comprising:

3 a display; and

4 a processor, configured to scan the e-mail so as to
5 identify a sender or recipient of at least a portion of
6 the e-mail, configured to drive the display to display a
7 hierarchy, and configured to drive the display to
8 indicate on the hierarchy a location of the sender or
9 recipient therein.

1 37. A computer program product for providing information
2 regarding a piece of electronic mail (e-mail), the
3 product comprising a computer-readable medium having
4 program instructions embodied therein, which
5 instructions, when read by a computer, cause the computer
6 to:

7 process a data set containing transmission data
8 associated with the e-mail so as to determine one or more
9 steps in a propagation history of the e-mail, the
10 transmission data including identifiers of a sender of
11 the e-mail and of one or more recipients of at least a
12 portion of the e-mail; and

13 display the propagation history.

1 38. A computer program product according to claim 37,
2 wherein the instructions, when read by the computer,
3 cause the computer to analyze transmission information
4 embedded in text of the e-mail.

1 39. A computer program product according to claim 37,
2 wherein the instructions, when read by the computer,
3 cause the computer to analyze transmission information
4 not contained in text of the e-mail.

1 40. A computer program product according to claim 37,
2 wherein the instructions, when read by the computer,

3 cause the computer to designate a first visual symbol to
4 represent transmission of the e-mail to a primary
5 recipient, and to designate a second visual symbol
6 different from the first visual symbol to represent
7 transmission of the e-mail to a secondary recipient.

1 41. A computer program product according to claim 37,
2 wherein the instructions, when read by the computer,
3 cause the computer to designate a first visual symbol to
4 represent the sender and designate at least one visual
5 symbol different from the first visual symbol to
6 represent the one or more recipients.

1 42. A computer program product according to claim 41,
2 wherein the instructions, when read by the computer,
3 cause the computer to designate a first color for the
4 first visual symbol and designate a second color,
5 different from the first color, for the at least one
6 visual symbol.

1 43. A computer program product according to claim 37,
2 wherein the instructions, when read by the computer,
3 cause the computer to graphically display the propagation
4 history.

1 44. A computer program product according to claim 43,
2 wherein the instructions, when read by the computer,
3 cause the computer to graphically display the steps in
4 the history in an animation mode.

1 45. A computer program product according to claim 43,
2 wherein the instructions, when read by the computer,
3 cause the computer to:

4 display a representation of the sender and at least
5 one of the recipients; and

6 display a graphical representation of movement of the
7 e-mail from the sender to the at least one of the
8 recipients.

1 46. A computer program product according to claim 45,
2 wherein the instructions, when read by the computer,
3 cause the computer to display an arrow to represent the
4 movement.

1 47. A computer program product according to claim 37,
2 wherein the instructions, when read by the computer,
3 cause the computer to determine two or more steps in the
4 propagation history of the e-mail, the transmission data
5 including for each step in the propagation history
6 identifiers of a sender and one or more recipients of a
7 respective portion of the piece of e-mail, and wherein
8 the instructions, when read by the computer, cause the
9 computer to:

10 receive from a user a designation of an electronic
11 mail correspondent;

12 find at least one identifier in the transmission data
13 corresponding to the designated correspondent; and

14 display part of the piece of e-mail responsive to
15 finding the at least one identifier.

1 48. A computer program product according to claim 47,
2 wherein the instructions, when read by the computer,
3 cause the computer to display e-mail content sent by the
4 correspondent.

1 49. A computer program product according to claim 47,
2 wherein the instructions, when read by the computer,
3 cause the computer to display e-mail content sent to the
4 correspondent.

1 50. A computer program product according to claim 47,
2 wherein the instructions, when read by the computer,
3 cause the computer to:

4 determine a location of the correspondent in a
5 hierarchy;

6 display the hierarchy; and

7 identify for the user the location of the
8 correspondent in the hierarchy.

1 51. A computer program product according to claim 37,
2 wherein the instructions, when read by the computer,
3 cause the computer to: (a) receive information regarding
4 a relationship relating members in a set, which set
5 includes at least some of: the sender and the one or more
6 recipients, and (b) display the propagation history
7 responsive to the relationship.

1 52. A computer program product according to claim 51,
2 wherein the instructions, when read by the computer,
3 cause the computer to receive geographical information
4 about the members.

1 53. A computer program product according to claim 51,
2 wherein the instructions, when read by the computer,
3 cause the computer to receive hierarchical and
4 geographical information about the members.

1 54. A computer program product according to claim 51,
2 wherein the instructions, when read by the computer,
3 cause the computer to receive hierarchical information
4 about the members.

1 55. A computer program product according to claim 54,
2 wherein the instructions, when read by the computer,
3 cause the computer to receive for each one of a plurality
4 of the members, information indicating: (a) who reports
5 to that member and (b) to whom does that member report.

1 56. A computer program product according to claim 54,
2 wherein the instructions, when read by the computer,
3 cause the computer to:

4 display a hierarchy including the members in the set;

5 and

6 display the propagation history with respect to the
7 hierarchy.

1 57. A computer program product according to claim 56,
2 wherein the instructions, when read by the computer,
3 cause the computer to superimpose a representation of the
4 propagation history on the hierarchy.

1 58. A computer program product for providing information
2 regarding a piece of electronic mail (e-mail), the
3 product comprising a computer-readable medium having
4 program instructions embodied therein, which
5 instructions, when read by a computer, cause the computer
6 to:

7 scan the e-mail so as to identify a sender or
8 recipient of at least a portion of the e-mail;

9 display a hierarchy; and

10 indicate on the hierarchy a location of the sender or
11 recipient in the hierarchy.